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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



[*The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this Department.*]

FOR THE NURSE'S BAG

DEAR EDITOR: I want to say to the private nurse, do not forget to carry in your case some rubber bands, some little wire fastenings for your chart, and some labels. The last named your druggist will gladly give you, and you will find them very useful for any solutions you may happen to make or for specimen bottles. B.

WITH A SUBSCRIPTION

DEAR EDITOR: This is not the first time that I am a subscriber, but the last few years I have travelled a good deal, and have bought single copies of the JOURNAL. But last week I heard Miss McIsaac speak in Omaha, and I was very much impressed with what she said. I certainly believe in nurses co-operating to raise the standard of nursing and give all the help they can to their profession. This subscription is a direct effect of Miss McIsaac's visit, but I hope and believe it is not the only one. G. S.

HOW TO BATHE YOUNG INFANTS

DEAR EDITOR: I should like to answer S. C. D., R.N., on how to bathe infants. 'I have had four years' experience in obstetrical nursing in homes, and I have found that putting the child on a bath blanket on a pillow on the table is by far the quickest, easiest, and most beneficial way to the child. First, get all clothes, water, towels, and wash rag (sponges should never be used) ready; then put child in blanket and proceed as with adults. Arms, chest (arms covered), legs (upper part of body covered), and back; and by arranging the clothes in rotation, the child will have to be turned only once while dressing.

There is danger of infection by placing child in bowl of water, as particles of fecal matter are apt to be washed off, or the child may urinate while in the bowl. In fact, most physicians say do not touch the cord dressing unless soiled or moist, and then sponge with alcohol and apply a clean dressing.

Try bathing on the table, you will find it a great help, and such a boon to young, nervous mothers who are continually afraid of having the child roll off their laps. I. R. F., R.N.

THE GENERALLY FATAL HEMORRHAGES OF THE NEW-BORN CONTROLLED BY RABBIT SERUM AND HUMAN SERUM INJECTIONS

DEAR EDITOR: One of my nurses brings me your query concerning two "unusual" cases (Vol. X, 10, 1910, p. 757). Hemorrhages of the new-born are hardly unusual. The mortality heretofore has been very high. I have not the facts here, out of town, but from memory quote the figures at the New York Lying-In, where Dr. James Welch instead of losing nearly every case, even though

transfused, has saved all but one of the last seventeen by transfusion of the serum of normal blood, at intervals of three or four hours while the tendency lasts. As two ounces of human blood at short intervals for days is not easy to procure and horse serum damages human blood, at Sloane Maternity rabbit blood is used. Dr. Cragin reports the same success by injecting the serum of what blood can be obtained from a rabbit (10 or 15 c.c.— $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.) every two to four hours. A fresh rabbit is required each time, and the treatment continued as long as the bleeding continues, or if it returns. Thus another disease, heretofore hopeless, is conquered. Dr. Welch's article was in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*. Dr. Cragin's brief report will appear in the *American Journal of Obstetrics* shortly, under Transactions of the New York Obstetric Society, meeting of October, 1910.

Yours truly,

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President New York Obstetrical Society,
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THE MENOPAUSE

DEAR EDITOR: I have read with much interest the article on "The Menopause" in the September number of the JOURNAL, and note that while Dr. Perkins gives much advice to "every woman who has passed the menopause," she fails to tell us how we may know when it is passed. In other articles on the same subject I find the same omission, and as I am often questioned about it, I venture to ask for an answer to the question, How may a woman know certainly that she has passed the menopause?

I have read the JOURNAL with growing interest from the first to the last number.

ANXIOUS INQUIRER.

[This question was referred to Dr. Perkins who replied as follows: "The menopause is such an elastic period that this question is difficult to answer. In some women the menses cease abruptly, or after a few months of irregularity and decrease. In the majority it extends over a longer period, averaging from one to three years; in some women longer still,—there are delayed or scanty irregular menses with some periods that seem just as usual, until finally it disappears altogether. In general, it may be said that a woman of fifty or thereabouts, who has no illness, and has had menstrual irregularity for months or years, has passed the menopause when six months or a year have elapsed without the menses. Certainly she should consult a physician if the flow or any discharge appears after this. Women who menstruate very early have a later menopause, and vice versa. Again, in some families, the menopause is notably early, even at thirty-five. Flushed and nervous symptoms often continue for months after the flow has ceased entirely."]

AS TO PERSONAL CLEANLINESS

DEAR EDITOR: There are so many new campaigns constantly organized, that the next we hear will be that one is to in some way educate each person in the world that he should take a daily bath for the sake of *cleanliness* and health, and also to keep his *finger nails clean*. It has never been estimated how